

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

Please amend the drawings as follows: Fig. 6 by changing reference characters 40A, 40B and 40C to 42A, 42B and 42C, respectively, and adding reference character W; and Fig. 7 by replacing reference characters 62A, 62B, 62B and 62D each with reference character 62. Attached herewith are “Replacement Sheets” of Figs. 6 and 7 and “Annotated Marked-Up Drawings” of Figs. 6 and 7. Formal drawings will be submitted upon approval of these changes and issuance of a Notice of Allowance.

REMARKS

This amendment is in response to the Official Action dated December 21, 2004. The drawings and specification have been amended. Claims 1-19 remain in the application with Claims 1, 8 and 15 being the only independent claims. Favorable reconsideration, in view of the above amendments and accompanying remarks, is respectfully requested.

In paragraph 1 of the Official Action, the Examiner has objected to the drawings for the reasons noted therein. It is believed that the axle flange claimed in line 2 of claim 4 is shown in the drawings. Drawing Fig. 8 is a schematic diagram of a portion of a vehicle including the vehicle drum-in-hat disc brake assembly and clearly illustrates an axle flange by reference character number 202. Thus, it is believed that the axle flange claimed in line 2 of claim 4 is supported by drawing Fig. 8.

In paragraph 2 of the Official Action, the Examiner has objected to the drawings for the reason noted therein. It is believed that the above changes to the drawings and/or the specification overcome these objections.

In paragraph 3 of the Official Action, the Examiner has objected to the drawings for the reason noted therein. Regarding the objection that number 92 in figure 4 is not mentioned in the specification, it is noted that the specification on page 9, line 18 recites "(one of such openings 92 being illustrated in Fig. 4)". Thus, the specification mentions number 92. Regarding the other objections, it is believed that the above changes to the drawings overcome these objections.

In paragraph 5 of the Official Action, the Examiner has objected to the disclosure for the reasons noted therein. It is believed that the above changes to the specification overcome these objections.

In paragraph 7 of the Official Action, the Examiner has rejected Claims 1, 3, 4, 7, 8, 10, 11, 14 and 15-17 under the provisions of 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,865,275 to Anger et al. These rejections are respectfully traversed in view of the following reasons.

Independent Claim 1 recites in part that “a drum-in-hat adapter having a centrally located second aperture and a plurality of smaller mounting apertures formed therein about said centrally located first aperture thereof, *said adapter being formed as a one piece stamping and including an integral abutment member formed therewith during the stamping thereof*” (emphasis added). The Anger et al. ‘275 reference discloses in Fig. 3 a stamped sheet metal flange 16 (i.e., the drum-in-hat adapter) having an *abutment member 30* which can be attached to the flange 16 by integrally forming it into the flange *by casting it onto a side portion of the flange 16*. In the Official Action, the Examiner is of the opinion that the flange 16 in the Anger et al. ‘275 reference shows an integral abutment “member” or projection in the area of the lead line of number 16 in Fig. 3. However, this is mistaken and it is clear that the “member” the Examiner is considering being an abutment *is not the same* as the abutment of the present invention as that term has been described in the specification of the present application and therefore as that term is to be read or interpreted in Claim 1. The term “abutment member” as recited in Claim 1 means the abutment member 40 as described and illustrated in the present application and does not cover the ears or lugs 38 of the adapter since the ears are separately claimed in dependent Claim 7. The “member” (actually there are two of such members), in the area of the lead line of number 16 in the Anger et al. ‘275 reference is actually an ear or lug having an opening formed therein for securing the caliper 14 to the flange 16. These two “members” shown in the area of the lead line 16 in the Anger et al. ‘275 reference generally correspond to the ears or lugs 38 shown in the present invention (best shown in Figs. 4-6), wherein the ears 38 are provided with holes 38A formed therein so that a pair of fasteners disposed in the holes 38A of the ears 38 can be used to attach disc brake caliper assembly to the adapter 12. The abutment member 40 in the applicants invention and as claimed in Claim 1 is there to receive “an associated end of a brake shoe” (see specification at page 7, line 21). This is clearly the same as the abutment member 30 shown in the Anger et al. ‘275 reference which, as discussed above, is *cast onto a side portion of the flange 16*. Thus, the Anger et al. ‘275 reference clearly does not disclose or suggest “*said adapter being formed as a one piece stamping and*

including an integral abutment member formed therewith during the stamping thereof, as recited in Claim 1. Accordingly, it is believed that Claim 1, along with dependent Claims 2-7, are patentable over the cited references.

Independent Claim 8 contains similar limitations to that of Claim 1. Thus, for those reasons discussed above with respect to Claim 1, it is believed that Claim 8, along with dependent Claims 9-14, are patentable over the cited references.

Independent Claim 15 contains similar limitations to that of Claim 1. Thus, for those reasons discussed above with respect to Claim 1, it is believed that Claim 15, along with dependent Claims 16-19, are patentable over the cited references.

In paragraph 9 of the Official Action, the Examiner has rejected Claims 2, 5, 6, 9, 12, 13, 18 and 19 under the provisions of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,865,275 to Anger et al. Dependent Claims 2, 5, 6, 9, 12, 13, 18 and 19 are believed to be patentable for those reasons discussed above with respect to their respective independent Claims 1, 8 and 15.

In view of the above amendments and accompanying remarks, it is believed that the application is in condition for allowance. However, if the Examiner does not believe that the above remarks and amendments place the application in condition for allowance, or if the Examiner has any comments or suggestions, it is requested that the Examiner contact Applicants' attorney at (419) 255-5900 to discuss the application prior to the issuance of an action in this case by the Examiner.

ADAPTER FOR VEHICLE BRAKE ASSEMBLY

Name of Inventor: Dennis Kelly et al.

Name & Telephone Number of Person to Call If Necessary:

Douglas V. Pavelko: (419) 255-5900

Serial No.

Sheet 4 of 6

Docket No.
1-24296

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ANNOTATED MARKED-UP
DRAWINGS

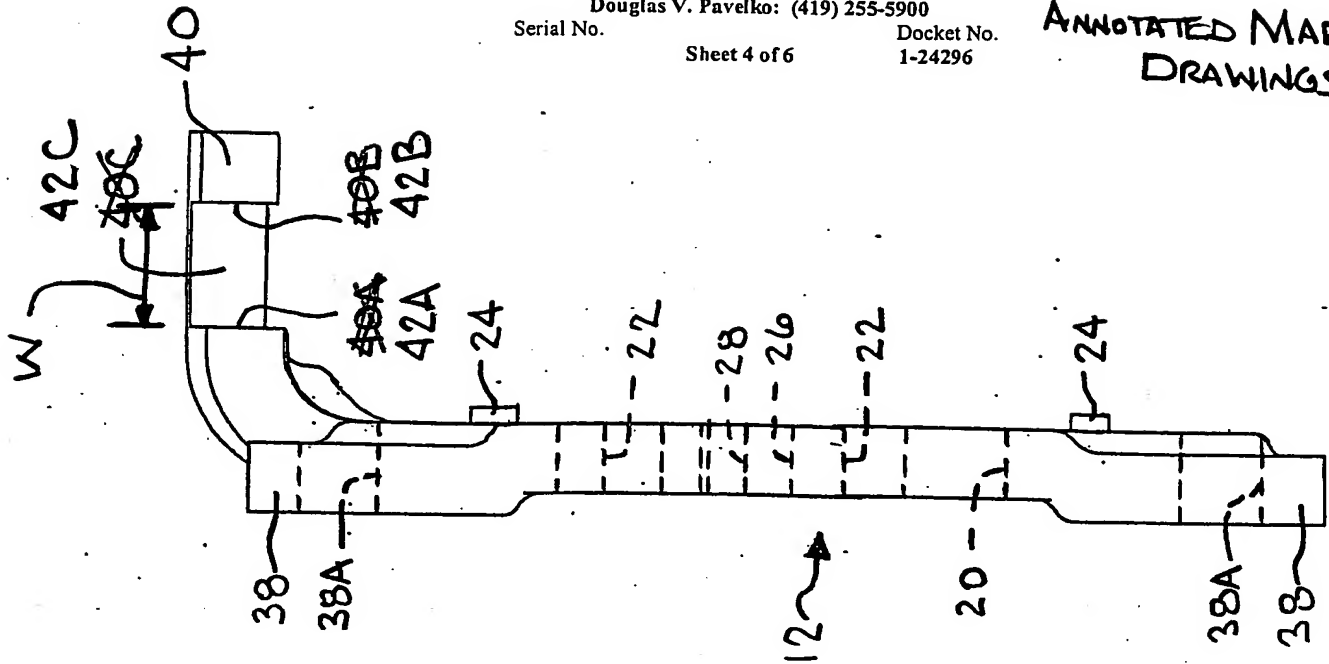
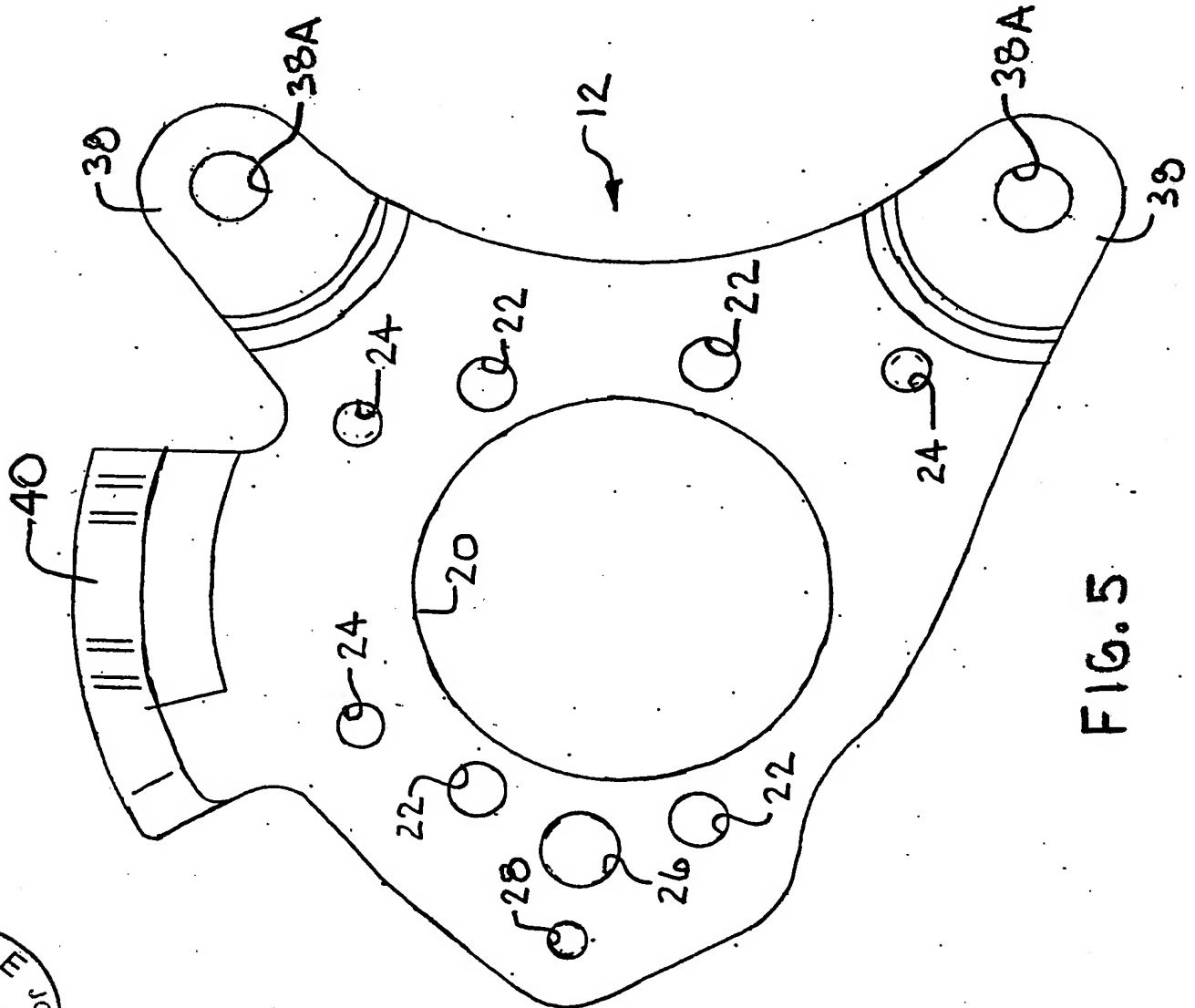


FIG. 6



ADAPTER FOR VEHICLE BRAKE ASSEMBLY

Name of Inventor: Dennis Kelly et al.

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Sheet 5 of 6

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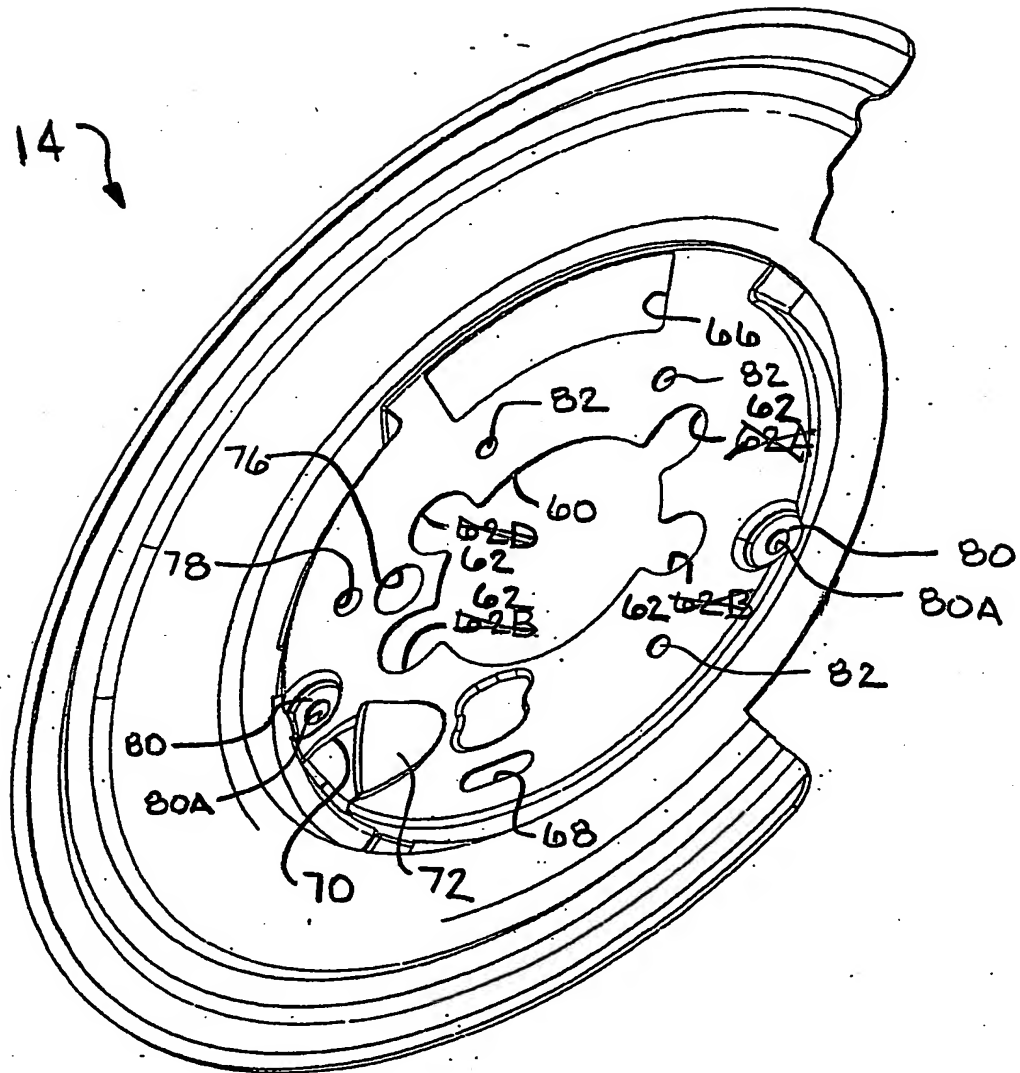


FIG. 7